

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 16467 240850Z

ACTION HEW-06

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1998

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NESCO

PASS DHEW/USOE; COTNER; AND USICA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: INTERIM INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE FOR PHYSICAL
EDUCATION AND SPORTS - SECOND SESSION, MAY 23,1978

1. U.S. DELEGATION MET WITH WESTERN EUROPE CAUCUS AND
EXCHANGED VIEWS ON AGENDA AND SPECIFIC ISSUES
PARTICULARLY FIRST ITEMS TO BE DISCUSSED, AGENDA ITEM 3
(DRAFT CHARTER) AND AGENDA ITEM 4 (INTERNATIONAL
COMPETITION).

2. THERE WAS GENERAL ACCEPTANCE OF TEXT. HOWEVER, THERE
WILL BE SOME AMENDMENTS, E.G., FRG OBJECT FORMULATION
ARTICLES 9, 10, (CHARTER). WE SHARE VIEWS THESE NEED
BE DRAFTED IN CLEARER LANGUAGE. MORE SERIOUS IS FACT
NONE SHARE OUR CONCERN WITH ART. 8 (DRAFT CHARTER).
EUROPEANS INTERPRET THIS ARTICLE IN BROADEST TERMS AND
DO NOT CONSIDER IT SUGGESTS GOVERNMENT DICTATION TO
MEDIA. THEY ARE HOWEVER PREPARED TO SUPPORT US BUT IT
IS CLEAR WE SHALL BE CARRYING BURDEN OF CASE.

3. ACTUAL CONFERENCE OPENED IN FRIENDLY ATMOSPHERE BY
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PAGE 02 PARIS 16467 240850Z

DIRECTOR GENERAL M'BOW WHO EMPHASIZED POINT THAT UNESCO
HAS NO INTEREST IN CONTROLLING INTERNATIONAL SPORTS
COMPETITIONS AND THAT THERE IS NO UNESCO AMBITION IN
THAT DIRECTION. HE WAS REFERRING TO AGENDA ITEM 4
(INTERNATIONAL SPORTS COMPETITIONS). M'BOW EXPLAINED
UNESCO'S INTEREST IN THIS SUBJECT AS BEING ONE OF
CONTRIBUTING POSITIVELY TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF SPORTS

AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION AS PART OF UNESCO'S INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION ROLE. SINCE ONLY 31 REPLIES RECEIVED TO UNESCO SPORTS QUESTIONNAIRE, M'BOW SUGGESTED UNESCO NEEDS MORE REPLIES AND THAT THIS QUESTION OF SEEKING LARGER PARTICIPATION MIGHT BE DISCUSSED AT THE UNESCO GENERAL CONFERENCE AND THAT THEREFORE ONLY AN INTERIM REPORT ON THIS ITEM MIGHT NEED BE PREPARED. HE STRESSED UNESCO WANTS PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORT TO BECOME REAL FACTOR IN TERMS OF LIFE-LONG EDUCATION AND THAT SPORT REMAINS IN "THEATRE OF IDEALS", NOT OF CHAUVISM, TO IMPROVE FRIENDSHIP AND SOLIDARITY AMONG NATIONS. AFTERNOON SESSION DEVOTED TO GENERAL STATEMENTS ON CHARTER. PRESENT DRAFT SEEMS TO BE BROADLY SUPPORTED. THERE WILL HOWEVER, BE AMENDMENTS AND PROBLEM WILL BE HOW TO CONTAIN THEIR PROLIFERATION AND INSURE THAT AMENDMENTS OF IMPORTANCE TO US CAN BE ACCEPTED.

4. CHIEF OF US DELEGATION CHAPMAN ENDORSED GENERALLY THE WORK OF THE COMMITTEE AND ITS WORKING GROUP ON ITEM 3 (CHARTER). HE SAID THAT THE USDEL WOULD HAVE SOME AMENDMENTS HOWEVER POINTING OUT THE US FEDERAL GOVERNMENT CANNOT TELL, NOR PERHAPS EVEN SUGGEST, TO EITHER THE SPORTS BODIES OR THE MEDIA WHAT THEY CAN OR CANNOT DO. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT THE NOTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS SHOULD NOT BE DILUTED BY RECOGNIZING TOO MANY RIGHTS. THE USDEL BELIEVED THAT EDUCATION WAS A FUNDAMENTAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 16467 240850Z

RIGHT AND THAT PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THAT CONTEXT. CHAPMAN SAID USDEL BELIEVED THAT THERE WAS BROAD CONSENSUS ON IMPORTANCE OF PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND SPORTS AND THAT IT WAS THE PROPER FUNCTION OF UNESCO AND THE COMMITTEE TO FOSTER A CLIMATE OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN THESE FIELDS. CHAPMAN HOPED THAT THE COMMITTEE WOULD CONCENTRATE ON CONTRIBUTING TO THIS OBJECTIVE AND AVOID TRYING TO SETTLE DEEPER POLITICAL ISSUES THAT WERE NOT GERMANE TO THE COMMITTEE'S WORK.

5. THE WEST GERMAN AND BRITISH DELEGATIONS REQUESTED THAT THE INTERIM COMMITTEE CONSIDER AGENDA ITEM 4 (INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION) WEDNESDAY, MAY 24 IN PLACE OF AGENDA ITEM 3 (CHARTER) BECAUSE BOTH THEIR MINISTERS OF SPORTS WILL BE PRESENT ONLY THAT DAY. BOTH FRG MINISTER BAUM AND UK MINISTER HOWELL HAVE APPARENTLY PERSONAL KEEN INTEREST IN THE SUBJECT.
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